

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016790-0432

In re patent application of

Rafael STORZ et al.

Serial No. Unknown

Filed: August 28, 2001

For: METHOD FOR ILLUMINATING AN OBJECT WITH LIGHT FROM A LASER  
LIGHT SOURCE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully request that the following amendment be entered into the application:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 14, 16, 18, 19, and 20 as follows:

--14. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that a noise signal (5), a periodic signal (5) or a stochastic signal (5) is applied to the modulation means.

16. Method according to Claim 1, characterized by use in a confocal scanning microscope (1).

18. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the modulation is synchronized with the scanning process of the confocal scanning microscope (1).

19. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that a change in the wavelength of the laser light (6) due to the modulation is taken into account by the control unit of an AOTF (acousto-optical tunable filter) or AOBS (acousto-optical beam splitter) which injects the laser light.


20. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that a change in the power of the laser light (6) due to the modulation is taken into account by the control unit of an AOTF or AOBS which injects the laser light.--

#### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully request that the foregoing amendments to Claims 14, 16, 18, 19, and 20 be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims. Versions of the claims as amended are attached herewith for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,

August 28, 2001  
Date

  
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**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

14. Method according to [one of] Claim[s] 1[ to 13], characterized in that a noise signal (5), a periodic signal (5) or a stochastic signal (5) is applied to the modulation means.

16. Method according to [one of] Claim[s] 1[ to 15], characterized by use in a confocal scanning microscope (1).

18. Method according to [one of] Claim[s] 1[ to 17], characterized in that the modulation is synchronized with the scanning process of the confocal scanning microscope (1).

19. Method according to [one of] Claim[s] 1[ to 18], characterized in that a change in the wavelength of the laser light (6) due to the modulation is taken into account by the control unit of an AOTF (acousto-optical tunable filter) or AOBS (acousto-optical beam splitter) which injects the laser light.

20. Method according to [one of] Claim[s] 1[ to 19], characterized in that a change in the power of the laser light (6) due to the modulation is taken into account by the control unit of an AOTF or AOBS which injects the laser light.